FLORIDA SKIP

THE AMATEUR RADIO VOICE OF THE SOUTHEAST

Vol. 36 No. 3 March 1994

SFFMA are CHAMPs

Special Report to FLORIDA SKIP
-by Rick Vahan, N4PBF

As described at the top of their Newsletter, the South Florida FM Association is, "A Community of Amateur-Radio Enthusiasts..Celebrating 26 Years of Voluntary Public and Emergency Communications...Dedicated to Advancing the Art of Amateur Radio."

Amateur radio, which served the Miami area so well following Hurricane Andrew, is coming through once again. This time, it's with the fight against crime. SFFMA has taken another giant step for the community by establishing CHAMP (Citizen's Ham Mobile Patrol) - a joint effort of the Citizens' Crime Watch of Dade County, the Metro-Dade Police Department and the SFFMA. The SFMMA serves as the sponsor for the amateur radio community, enlisting all licensed hams and radio clubs in this coordinated mobile patrol. Metro-Dade's Police and Communications Bureau and Citizens' Crime Watch personnel provide the training for all hams participating in CHAMP.

Working closely with Metro-Dade police, hams will receive a two-hour training course including a tour of the emergency response 911 center. The 911 center operators will be informed about the hams' participation in CHAMP. While it has been possible for hams to report to police any wrongdoing or emergency situation via repeater phone patches, reports were not always given in a manner that police could act upon. The training teaches CHAMPs what information is needed, how to report it and a means of getting it to 911 operators quickly. The operators, knowing reports are coming from CHAMPs, will relay the information to officers in the field quickly.

While the idea of citizens being watchers and reporters of crime is not a new one, there have been no active patrols of this sort in recent times. With crime in the streets a growing problem in every major city, the idea is one whose time has come again.

CHAMPs will have a device identifying them as such on their vehicles serving notice to would-be car jackers, shash-and-grab thieves and out-and-out holdup people that they are being observed and perhaps giving them second thoughts about their criminal actions.

In a recent run through of how CHAMP works with a local television station, Sam Harte, KQ4MR, president of the South Florida FM Association, sand they didn't need a staged example. While riding with the TV crew, harte said, one of the new CHAMPs reported an accident with injuries on the road. Moments later a motorcycle officer raced past the TV crew on his way to the accident scene. The crew followed and the story of the accident and CHAMP made the evening news.

The ambitious project of SFMMA captured the attention of the ***Miami Herald*** who devoted over 22 column inches to the CHAMP project in the January 27, 1994 issue of the newspaper. This is especially noteworthy because the news media has never been known to be overly generous in its coverage of the amateur radio service.

The Miami Herald *article is reprinted below in its entirety. The SFMMA project could serve as the model for other amateur radio organizations throughout Florida and even the United States. The FLORIDA SKIP applauds the fine efforts of the South Florida FM Association in its contribution to the community and enhancing the image of the amateur radio service. //ger*

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FROM THE EDITOR

Needless to say, this has been a rough February. The month is short and the weekends have been busy with the Miami and the Orlando Hamfests.

As I said before, the magazine is being mailed later in the month previous to publication. This is to the reader's benefit so that the information is more current.

This month promises to be a problem month since the mailing company is moving to a new location. They do not anticipate any delays in mailing but anything can happen.

We are trying to keep track of problem areas for magazine delivery and it appears there is a cluster of problems in the Miami area. I talked to the appropriate people and it is not a problem from this end but bear in mind, the mailing is done from Melbourne now instead of the Miami area. There is theoretically a one to two day delivery time after mailing from Melbourne. So, consider the fact that mailing is being done a week later and delivery to the Miami area is one to two days. I certainly would like to have the fastest delivery possible but given the costs of speedy delivery, I have to exercise some restraint.

If you change addresses or suspend mail delivery for vacations or trips, please notify us. Your undelivered Skip is returned and we are charged 35 cents.

I thank all of you for your patience as we try to streamline the record keeping for everybody. February has been a cruel month for catching up but we intend to tough it out! //ger

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FLORIDA PHONE NETS

Doc Staples (W4SME), Editor

FROM DOC, W4SME, FPTN NET MANAGER: The Florida Phone Traffic Net meets every morning of the year at five minutes before seven! Tune your radio to 3940 KHz and join the FPTN Family! The Net is known for it's technical expertise as well as having experts in music, literature, the arts and haute cuisine! If ALL that stuff doesn't tweak your interest, why not drop by and join in on the traffic handling which we do with great GUSTO! In fact, during January the record indicates that 1117 stations checked into the Net with an average of 36 per session. Our Net Liaisons and traffic mavens sent and received 437 pieces of formal traffic or 14 pieces per session. The Net used 925 minutes to conduct it's business or an average of 30 minutes per session and the time per message was just over 2 minutes! Congratualtions Gang--ya'all done mitey gud!! One of our family became a Silent Key during this reporting period. Frank Ziegler, Jr., K4EUK lost the battle after a very serious operation and joined the ranks of the A-1 Operators in Ham Heaven. ALL of us will miss you very much Frank, RIP. The Net is sure pleased to see the return of N2AOX, Dick and also Herman, WB4FJY. Two new calls have appeared on the Travelers list recently and they are KA5HOV, Tom and his XYL KC4OCW. We hope they will become regulars! Another dependable, particularly on weekends is Barry, WD4DNC and he is usually in the company of Alan, WA4ATF son of W4WYR. During the month the Net greeted a total of 38 travelers representing 145 checkins. The Net is always pleased to welcome all stations into the FPTN Family. Honors for the month go to the following for 100% participation: WD4DAH, WA4EIC, N4GMU, WA4JDH, KB4MON, K4RBR, K4SJA, W4SME, WB4TOV, WA9VND, WB4WYG and WB4ZVD! Thanks to each of you for your persistence and dedication! The Net needs volunteers for Liaison to other Region Nets as well as new stations to act as alternate Net Control Stations. Give the Net your support-PARTICIPATE ! It's 30 for now es 73 & 88's DOC, W4SME

FROM NILS, WA4NDA, FMTN, NET MANAGER: The Florida Midday Traffic Net meets DAILY at 1200 local time on 7247.5Khz. Our Daily warmup sessions begins at 1145 where members have a chance to chit-chat before the formal session begins! This is where you can greet old friends and make new ones and get on the Pay-Roll(Hi-Hi). The Net has some new NCS's helping with the load. Most important are the new Liaisons to Region nets doing such a good job covering EAN and 4RN. However, the Net still needs more Liaison stations in order to be able to cover our daily obligations throughout the year. I will really appreciate, those of you who have the time, to let me know that you will act as a Liaison stations for FMTN!?òÀThe Net will be stronger and operate more smoothly if you will VOLUNTEER! Please send me a message that you will HELP! Speaking of Net Control Stations! George, NY1H is now the permanent NCS for Thursday! This is in addition to his regular Liaison duties. The Net is still in NEED of additional Net Control Stations and Alternate Net Control Stations!! Give it a try--it's not that difficult and you will be a better HAM because of the experience! A chapter of devoted service was closed when Frank Ziegler, K4EUK became a Silent Key. The Net will sorely miss this man who for more than forty years was a mainstay on both CW, AM and SSB Nets! Frank, you will be remembered longer than you could ever realize. RIP. The 'QUAKE' in California became a lot more serious over the days than many people thought. Fortunately, they controlled the massive influx of incoming H&W by using the moritorium until delivery could be accomplished. When conditions permitted, Health and Welfare began to flow in an orderly fashion and this is where APLink began to strut it's stuff! Mort, WX4H, Charlie, NR2F, Nick, N4SS and myself were all involved in working this mode, which was so successful! Stats for January follow: Checkins 720 averaging 23 per session. Traffic 359 averaging 12 per session. Average session time was 22 minutes. Thanks to everyone for a great job. 73 & 88's NILS, WA4NDA

FROM BOB, KC4ZHF, SEFTN, ASST. NET MGR: The Southeast Florida Traffic Net meets daily at 1800 on the Motorola Amateur Radio Club Repeater, 146.79 down 600. A good turnout was recorded for the first month of the New Year! Stats for January reveal 1381 stations joined the Net where 354 pieces of formal traffic were passed in 1757 minute during 31 sessions. Thats an average of 45 stations per session working an average of 11 messages! January became the 76th consecutive month with more than 1000 stations checking in! Congratulations EVERYONE! Lets all give a big hand to Greg, KE4IEY for becoming the 1000th station to checkin while KD4JMV was NCS on January 23rd. Greg, your certificate is in the mail! I am so pleased to note the number of NEW "HAMS" joining the world of Traffic Handling! It is always a pleasure to welcome those interested in this special phase of Amateur Radio and the Net stands ready to lend a hand and help whenever necessary. Those making the Honor Roll for January with 100% participation were: KD4GR, KD4HGU, KD4HKS, KD4LQG, KD4JMV, KB4WBY, KD4NPC and KC4ZHF. Your continued support and participation are greatly appreciated! Don't forget--6pm--daily--146.79/19--JOIN US! 73 & 88's BOB, KC4ZHF

FROM EARL, K4FQU, SWFTN, NET MANAGER: The Southwest Florida Traffic Net meets Monday through Saturday at 1000 local time on 146.88 down 600. The first month of the NEW YEAR has passed and during the month I have compiled all the stats for 1993. The Net had a GREAT year with some very impressive figures! The Net recorded 6138 total checkins giving an average of 19.6 per session. 2284 pieces of formal traffic were passed in 313 sessions with an average of 7.3 messages per sessions. Some interesting sidelights in the report are: Shortest session: 3mins ,Jan 16th, N4ZAW,NCS; longest session, 118mins, Dec 20th,K4FQU,NCS; most messages passed per session=107! Seven Liaison stations accounted for exactly 300 pieces of traffic or 13% of the total. This is why Liaison stations

and Reps to other NTS Nets are so VITAL to the success of a Traffic Net. Thirteen stations acted as Net Control Staions during the year. To them I extend my most sincere thanks for just a terrific job in support of the Net! Thanks to ALL who particiapted in '93 and to those who continue to join the Net each day to help make SWFTN an effective part of the NTS! During January the Net recorded checkins of 500 or an average of 20 stations per session working 145 pieces of traffic in 25 sessions. Join us, and become a REGULAR SWFTN member. 73 & 88's EARL, K4FQU

FROM DENNIS, KB4MON, TPTN NET MANAGER: Wow! What a month December was, for a while I thought we would never be able to empty the traffic bucket! And, once again, EVERYBODY on the Net really pulled together. All the schedules were met on time and the Liaisons got the traffic passed and the Nets's station checkin rate reached a daily average of 22. Congratulations to ALL! During the month the average number of pieces of formal traffic passed per session was 19.4 and the average time per session was slightly more than 27 minutes.This gave the Net a traffic station ratio of .90 ! My special thanks to those stations that stepped in and acted as Liaisons and really carried the load. Walt, WA4QXT has decided to try the climate up North and the Net is really going to miss his dedication and contribution as a Net Control Station. Walt has been a mainstay from Casselbery for more years than I want to remember and during all of that time has been a recipient of the Brass Pounders Award for his traffic handling on repeated ocassions! I can't think of a position in the NTS system that Walt hasn't participated in and in every case has done a superb job. Good luck in New York State, Walt, and get back and visit us when you can. Our sources tell us that Frank, K4EUK is on the mend following a triple heart by-pass and is progressing well. We all hope for his speedy recovery and return to the Net. WD4HHH, Delbert continues to check into the Net and in the absence of K4EUK is picking up all the traffic going in that direction. Thanks Delbert for your continued support. The Net Roster has grown during the month of December with the addition of the following stations: KF4YE, JERRY(Palm Bay), K4RBR,Norm(Hialeah) ,K0VNB, Bill(N. Ft.Myers), WY4A, BILL and NC4Y, Mike, both from(Ft. Myers). The Net welcomes each of you! All of you come from areas that receive traffic frequently and where the Net needs outlets. Even with all the activity this month, we only had two sations that made the attendance Honor Roll at 97%. They are Walt, WA4QXT and Larry KO4VK. Tropical Phone and Taffic Net meets every day of the year at 1700 on 3940 Khz. Why not drop by and visit with us?! 73 & 88's Dennis, KB4MON

FROM DENNIS, KB4MON, TPTN, NET MANAGER: The Tropical Phone and Traffic Net meets daily at 1700 on 3940 Khz. Everyone is welcome to come and participate in the net. It came as no surprise that when all the figures were compiled that we would show a drop from our December high. In fact I think everyone saw it as a welcome relief! The Net average traffic count per session dipped from 19 to 7.1! However, Net checkins remained surprisingly stable with an average of 20.1. During the month the Net lost one of it's most loyal and hardworking members: Frank Ziegler, Jr. K4EUK. Frank was known by traffic handlers throughout this country and beyond. For more than fifty years Frank maintained regular daily checkins to multiple NTS Nets. His clean CW fist and crisp phone technique will long be remembered! RIP. WD4HDH, Delbert has already begun to fill in the void left by Frank's passing and will continue to represent the Tampa area. W1BLH, Jim of East Point should be back with us shortly after his home was completely destroyed by fire. Jim sends his best regards to all on the Net and promises to get back to regular checkins as soon as possible! ?òÀAs Net Manager I want to congratulate the following for 90% or better attendance during the month: NR2F, K4RBR, KO4VK, WA9VND and WB4WYG. Thanks to all of the stations that came by, brought traffic, took traffic or just joined in on Net proceedings. You people are what makes TPTN the successful and friendly Net that it is ! 73 & 88's Dennis, KB4MON

Above and Beyond

-First person account by Phyllisan West, KA4FZI

It was nearly 10:30 PM January 2nd when our son, Bill, KA4GDV, his wife, Cathy, KD4ZLW, and their 2-year old daughter left Cape Coral for Orlando. About 11:30 PM, George Sipes, KE4FR phoned to tell us that the kids' car had broken down on I-75 near North Port.

George did not stop there, however, but gave us the Englewood repeater frequency he had heard them on and got us in touch through the repeater - me on a Ringo at 30 ft. and Bill on an old 2W HT. Knowing what can happen to stranded motorists, we quickly put the mobile rig in the car to monitor and headed out from Cape Coral. When signals were too weak to hear, George was there to relay what he heard. Our concern grew as Cathy reported a black pickup truck stopping behind them and Bill was out of the car. I kept calling to be assured they were still OK, and George also monitored and kept us in touch.

The young man and his pickup were still there as we arrived. He wasn't a ham but had heard the conversation on his scanner and stopped to stay there and wait for us. He then gave us directions as to where we could tow the car and then went on. I wish I knew his name and could let him know how much we appreciated his help. It was well after midnight by then, but George (KE4FR) still stuck with us too.

If I had the authority to award plaques or certificates for helping above and beyond the call of duty, I would award one to each of them. George could easily have chosen not to become involved, or to quit at the first step, but he didn't. Not only did he help fellow hams, but presented an exemplary image to the non-amateur public - people who listen in our conversations every day and judge us by what they hear.

Thank you, George. Words can't express our appreciation.

73, Phyllisan West, KA4FZI

FLORIDA CW NETS *Ed Roller (K4IA), Editor*

QFN Reported by Don, AD4CN: Now that the new year is upon us it's time to see if we can't produce as much success in '94 as in '93 which I believe we can do with such a great group of folks. But in order to make my bragging come true, we need more of you that take a back seat to help instead of the same old gang continuing to pick up the vacant rep and NCS slots. I know there are others who are capable of doing the job if they would only try. It's not that painful a task to be done and why not learn how now rather than waiting for an emergency to occur?

Please help by volunteering to go to some of the region nets as primary or alternate as well as NCS when needed. This can make you a much better operator and ready for possible emergency communication.

QFN still needs a regular Saturday RN5 rep so please let me know if interested. I finally got up a better antenna which will make everyone happy as I am now ready for more traffic work. Thanks gang and keep up the great work. 73 Don.

QFNS Reported by Laura, WA9VND: Statistics for January: QNI 283, QTC 109, QND 705. Our new ops are going great guns and sending traffic like pros. Fred, N4WLM and Gary, KE4DNO please keep it up. We had visits from Blaine, WA4RIC and Wayne, KA5HOV that were much appreciated.

I wonder when KC4ZHF and KC4ZHN are going to take their life in their hands and send a message? We are all looking forward to it. We are still looking for many new checkins. Please don't be afraid of us. We are here to help and encourage and we will go your speed. QFNS is on every night at 8 PM on 3715 kHz. See ya, 88 from Laura.

Gator Net Reported by Dean, W8IM: Dan, W4DL taking a well deserved vacation from the nets and all of the regulars feel the temporary loss of this FB operator. W8IM is home recovering from lumbar discactomy surgery and keeping net statistics. Gator Net welcomes new checkin Dick, W4OZC from Orlando, a much needed traffic outlet.

I appreciate Rip, AA4HT for providing valuable QSP to other NTS nets. I would like to extend an invitation for anyone interested in traffic handling to give GN a try daily at 8:30 AM on 7061 kHz. 73 Dean, W8IM, acting Manager.

Notes from Ed, K4IA: As is evident in the above writings, there is a genuine paucity of operators willing to take over the needed duties in the traffic nets. In many instances the op could make arrangements that will give him/her the time to participate. I believe that two or three consecutive days per week of traffic operating can provide enough time on the various nets to maintain current knowledge and experience.

Possible assignments might be as an NCS one day followed by taking a net liaison and a regional net the next day. Your assignments should be those that you can handle with a good degree of success. Avoid EAN if your station is only capable of consistently working Georgia. Think linear amplifier for EAN.

Now you would be free for five days to spend on other activities. Guess who is thinking along these lines. -73, Ed, K4IA.

Top Twenty Trafficers - January

-by WA4PFK and WX4J

	Station	Total		Station	Total
1	W3CUL	3028	11	WA4EIC	358
2	WX4H	1237	12	NY1H	341
3	W3VR	1099	13	AB4EA	271
4	WA9VND	961	14	K4FQU	265
5	N4SS	805	15	WA4PFK	254
6	KB4WBY	508	16	K4ZK	251
7	K4SCL	507	17	AA4BN	201
8	WA4NDA	446	18	KA4FZI	193
9	NR2F	402	19	KC4TJO	186
10	AA4HT	382	20	KB6ECH	171

SILENT KEYS

We regret to report the passing of the following Florida Amateur Radio Operators. Please notify FLORIDA SKIP of any silent keys in your area.

WA4BSG - Harold H. Peck, Melbourne Village
W4MVF - Wilbert (Bill) O. Harper, West Melbourne
KE4OG - William C. Doughten, Merritt Island

Traffic Hounds - January

-by Bill Jochimsen, K4ZK, STM, SFL

NET	QNI	AVG	QTC	QVG	SES	MGR	QTC/QNI
FPTN	1117	36.0	437	14.1	31	W4SME	0.39
FMTN	720	23.2	359	11.6	31	WA4NDA	0.50
SEFTN	1381	44.5	353	11.4	31	KD4GR	0.26
TPTN	625	20.2	219	7.1	31	KB4MON	0.35
NFPN	1226	39.5	213	6.9	31	N4WMS	0.17
GN	179	5.8	167	5.4	31	W4DL	0.93
FAST	569	9.1	166	2.6	62	WD4KBW	0.29
SWFTN	500	20.0	145	5.8	25	K4FQU	0.29
NFAN	955	36.7	125	4.8	26	WA4NDA	0.13
QFNS	283	9.1	109	3.5	31	WA9VND	0.39
FMSN	267	8.6	102	3.3	31	KC4FL	0.38
SVTN	771	25.7	93	3.1	30	KD4OBN	0.12
GARSN	251	12.6	42	2.1	20	WD4NFG	0.17
SPARC	976	32.5	37	1.2	30	N4ZMQ	0.00
FPON	172	5.5	36	1.2	31	WB4ZVD	0.21
BCEPN	213	35.5	30	5.0	6	WA2DXQ	0.14
AIN	39	9.8	15	3.8	4	WA4PFK	0.38
SFAN	60	15.0	14	3.5	4	KD4GR	0.23
PBEN	96	24.0	12	3.0	4	WB2OUK	0.13
DEN	315	78.8	11	2.8	4	N4LTT	0.03
		TOT	2685		TOT	0.27	

READERS WRITE

Jersey Bounce

from Fred Perkins, K4LQ - Moorestown, NJ

'...I have been a reader for many years and have kept in touch with the Florida ham radio scene through the pages of Skip.

I expect to retire in the next 2-3 years from Martin Marietta and we plan to build a place in Sebring. Look forward, after a many year hiatus, to getting back on the air again from Florida.

I am the editor of an internal company newsletter for Martin Marietta and am currently writing a thesis entitled "Feasibility Study for Starting a Newsletter Publishing Business", so am always interested in the subject of newsletters in general.

Fred - When ya bounce back to Florida, ya got any of those feasibility things about publishing amateur radio magazines you can bring along? //ger

The eyes have it.

From Josef Darmento, W4SXK of Merritt Island

Dear Jerry. "Skip is certainly better on the eyes!

Joe - It may be easier on your eyes but I suffer from finger fatigue. //ger

No demerits from Emeritus

From Leland Smith, W5KL, President Emeritus, QCWA of Harrison, AR

Congratulations! You have done a swell job with your first issue of Florida Skip.

I am glad such a capable person has taken over the outstanding job that Andy Clark did over the years in editing and publishing Florida Skip.

Leland - Andy poured the cement and I'm the cement finisher. //ger

FREE FLEA

The famous ***W4MAQ, Cy Harris Memorial Free Flea*** will again be held on Saturday, March 12, 1994 with a rain date of Saturday, March 19, 1994. The same good location, the East Parking Lot of The Motorola Corporation, located one traffic light East of University Drive on Sunrise Blvd. Of course the DOGS & COLD DRINKS all for a very nominal donation. We start at 0700 and close.....whenever!!

Security requests: **"REMAIN IN THE EAST PARKING LOT PLEASE"**

Y'all come and have a good time.

Talk-in on the Motorola Repeater 146.19/79. If you are in doubt about the weather and a possible postponement, I will be on the 146.19/79 at 0500 and can be called at 305-989-0509 for info up until 2300 every night. This will probably be my last Free Flea, as we are planning to move to Western North Carolina. Don't worry, the Free Fleas will be continued by someone else, to be announced.

PLEASE CLEAN UP YOUR AREA AND CHECK YOUR NEIGHBOR TOO.

See you at the flea. 73, Billy, WD4NEA.

HOW CAN I USE MY SHORTWAVE RADIO FOR NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT SAREX AND TO EAVESDROP ON THE ASTRONAUTS?

[Ed. Note: This information is provided by the American Radio Relay League's Educational Activities Department]

During a shuttle mission carrying the SAREX payload, news and Astronaut re-transmissions are carried on these Amateur Radio stations:

Goddard Amateur Radio Club (Greenbelt, MD) Amateur Radio station WA3NAN, news and re-transmissions on high frequency (HF) bands at 3.86, 7.185, 14.295, 21.395, and 28.65 MHz and on VHF at 147.45 MHz.

Johnson Space Center Amateur Radio Club (Houston, TX), Amateur Radio station W5RRR, news bulletins on HF bands at 3.850, 7.227, 14.280, 21.350, and 28.400 MHz and VHF at 146.64 MHz.

ARRL (Newington, CT) Amateur Radio station W1AW, news bulletins (9:45 PM, 12:45 AM EST) on HF bands at 3.99, 7.29, 14.29, 18.16, 21.39, 28.59 and VHF at 147.555 MHz.

These stations, and several VHF and UHF repeater groups, will re-transmit the signals on most amateur bands so that you and the students can hear the communications. You will hear NASA Mission Commentary, frequent bulletins to advise listeners of astronaut-planned transmissions, and amateur two-way voice and amateur television transmissions with the shuttles. Using a simple hand-held transceiver, you can open the world of science to hundreds of youngsters. Students themselves can take part in the shuttle flight via a packet message, and some will even be able to talk directly to the astronauts in orbit.

Listen also to the ARRL Bulletins on W1AW (see the ARRL's monthly journal, "QST", for Morse code and voice bulletins) on a daily basis; and to the AMSAT International Satellite Nets on Tuesdays, 3.840 MHz, 0130Z to 0300Z, and on Sundays, 14.282 MHz, 1800Z to 2100Z, +/- QRM.

ARRL, Internet

The Orlando Amateur Radio Club booth was buzzing at the Miami Hamboree. In two weeks, they get their booth at no charge! Florida Skip photo.

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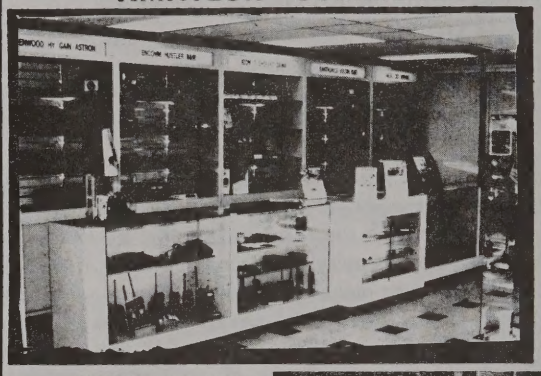

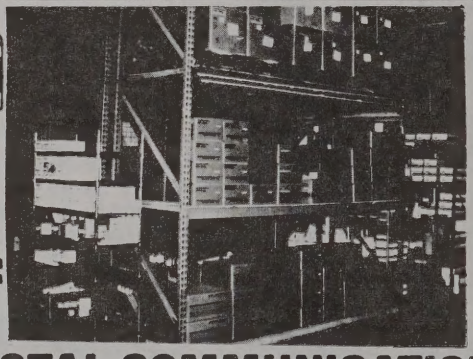

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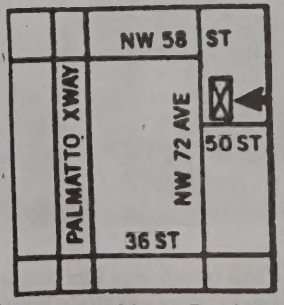

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Eli Nannis (K4JMH), Editor

Chapter reports are just not coming in. If the QCWA chapters in Florida do not send me their reports, we will lose the QCWA news in Florida Skip. It's up to you whether we keep our QCWA news in Skip. Send me your reports or send me a copy of your secretaries reports and I will condense it and write it up. If you want to see your chapter reports in Skip, please send me your reports on chapter activities. Find out if your secretaries are sending me a report of you chapter meetings. In this way, we exchange ideas and make our meeting more interesting.

Gator Chapter

The attendance at our meetings has been very good, averaging about 40 members and guests at each meeting. We always have an interesting program. At this meeting, our guest speaker was William Reiss, KK4XI, radio officer for the Pinellas Country Emergency Management organization. He explained the plans in cases of emergency and preparation in Pinellas County for any emergency. A number of our members belong to RACES. We discussed what the chapter mission is for the future. It was suggested that members and guests mingle with each other during our meetings and get more acquainted. In the past few months, we have had four Silent Keys and they were Irving Sears, W4JCJ; C.E. Noel, K4BLL; James Keyes, K4FCW and Frank Ziegler, K4EUK. We gained one new member William Cannon, W9KYP. Reported by Eli Nannis, K4JMH, Secretary.

Pelican Chapter

We held our first meeting at the new Staceys Buffet in St. Petersburg on January 19th. The meeting was opened by our new president Irwin Meyer, WA2YQU with 33 members and guests present. We greeted Roy and Elvera Dressler, W9MCS & W9TLJ who for illness have not been with us for a few seasons. Also a distinguished guest, John Edel, K8EBZ and Janet our national director from Canton, Ohio. It was reported that Gil Pearsall, W8HEZ is now home and undergoing therapy. The program was given by Mr. Ernest Meeker, Manager of Pinellas County Radio Systems. He spoke of the enhanced 911 service that is one of the first ever to be put into service in the entire country. We are sorry to report that Jim Keyes, K4FCW is a silent key and we shall put his QCWA pin on our banner. Jim was a very ardent DX'er with almost 300 countries. Bob Kleiber, KR8G was presented with a 60 year bar for his badge. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the members and guests for their work during the QCWA National Convention. Reported by J. Fred Strom, K9BSL, Secretary.

Southeast Chapter

At our January meeting, 26 members and guests attended. President George Henning, WB4JFA and all members introduced themselves. Treasurer Marion Rauch, WB4RFB gave a financial report. For the present, Al Wilcox will be bedridden indefinitely. Plans for our booth at the Miami Hamboree on Feb. 5 & 6. We also committed Chapter 12 to donate a ladies watch to the women's committee of the hamboree for their efforts in working behind the scene to make this hamboree a success. We accepted Jerry Crawford, K7UPJ as a new member. Andy Clark, W4IYT proposed moving our meeting place because of the noise generated by other customers in Denny's restaurant. This will be further discussed at our next meeting. We discussed using our old PA system for future meetings. The 50/50 was won by Kitty Starr, K4PME and John Haeger, W4BYK. The antenna rotor drawing was won by Andy, W4IYT. Reported by Herb Bernard, W4JXA.

Palm Beach Chapter 111

We had a super meeting last month. There was a turnout of thirty members and guests, and the people at the NPBCC put out an exceptionally fine buffet for our enjoyment.

Vice Pres. Forrest Haynes, K4YPO read a letter from Gen. Mgr. Jim Walsh, W7LVN thanking Len Jezorek, W4LC for his contribution of several call books to QCWA headquarters. Jim pointed out that the call books are used continually in looking up calls to verify dates and other information. This results in thoroughly wearing out the call books and replacements are needed frequently. Thanks to Len and the rest of us can take not for the need of old call books.

The chapter held its annual auction. Sec. Bob McDow, W4KOG tried to interest the members in all the priceless gems which were being offered for bids while Al Hurley, WD4ODH collected the meager pittances offered by the bidders and kept the transactions running smoothly. Everyone had a good time, some exceptional items were scooped up and the chapter treasury was enriched by $6.00.

Dues are due! About a third of the members have paid but many are in arrears! The roster is also being updated so get your dues in to keep from being dropped. Please make out any checks directly to your treasurer, Bob McDow in order to eliminate any problem in cashing.

Next months meeting will be on the 22nd of Feb. Please come and bring a friend. CU & 73 - Bob McDow, W4KOG

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I sorta wish I could have held off writing this for another week or so. I'm leaving this weekend for the Miami Hamfest and then the following week we're going up to the RV campground in Christmas, FL for the annual Ham-a-Rally for about two hundred amateur radio RV'ers and their families. The Ham-a-Rally is sponsored by the Amateur Radio Club of the Wally Byam Caravan Club Intl., and is attended by amateurs from all over the U.S. and usually includes some from out of the country. I'm sure I'll have lots of things to write about afterwards but I can't wait so it doesn't help me for this column.

I'm happy to report that Doug, N4SLS is home from the hospital and everything is coming along fine. Wendy, W1CUL has been checking in fairly regular from up thar in Maine or Vermont. I'm not sure just where but I do know it's under about ten feet of snow. I think Wendy's doing pretty good with most of his antenna buried under the snow. Hi. Hi. Also hear from George, K4AAP every once in awhile. All reports are that they are in good shape, and they send 73 and 88 to all. Had a few birthdays last month: Wendy, W1CUL and Floyd, N4FL. Charlie, W1PB celebrated his 39th (+5-). And Ernie, KA4BTQ and his XYL joined Bonnie and myself in anniversaries.

We've been getting a little bit more rain and the weather has been a little chillier down here lately. This seems to agree with the tomatos since they're starting to thrive. The plants had been growing like weeds but they weren't making any tomatos. Now we have a lot of tomatos coming so perhaps the change in the weather was just what we needed to get them going. We'll keep you informed.

-73 & 88 - Bob McDow, W4KOG

Old Old Timers Club

This is the weekend for the Miami Hamfest and I'm looking forward to seeing a lot of you at the QCWA/ OOTC booth down there. I know Wes and Blanche will be there, and I'm going to get one of her cookies to nibble. Hope a few of you can make it.

The net has been kinda ragged the last couple of weeks. Our net control in the person of Bob Bookwalter has been conspicuously absent and the rest of us sort of flounder around without our leader. Hi, hi. Charlie, K8RIF has been picking it up and doing yeoman work in Bob's absence. I think bob has been having some rig problems but he should be back on soon with his usual big booming signal. Seems like the QRM from the 5-land area has tapered off also so we'll be all ready for him when he gets back.

No news as yet on what is happening on the upper level. Don't know who will take over the shoes for Te Heithecker. Ted was such a dynamic guy, it'll take a big man to fill them.

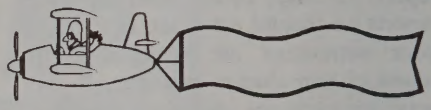
-73, Bob McDow, W4KOG

Hollywood Training

The Hollywood Amateur Radio Club will offer a 14-week training course leading to FCC licensing either as a Novice or a No-code Technician. Classes will be held on Wednesday nights commencing February 23 and will run from 7 pm to 10 pm at St. James Ep[iscopal Church, 3329 Wilson St., Hollywood.

The course fee is $20 plus and optional book fee of $12. The is no charge for the FCC Novice Examination. The charge for the No-code Technician Exam, however, is $5.25.

For further information and registration, please call Pete Saglio, KB4NSA at 966-1322.



Special Event Station

The Fort Pierce Amateur Radio Club will have a Special Events Station KN4RY operating from 1600-2300Z, March 12 and 0830-1600, March 13 on 20, 15 and novice portion of 10 meters phone.

The station will operate in conjunction with the **Experimental Aircraft Association fly-in** at the St. Lucie County International Airport in Ft. Pierce.

For a certificate, send a 9 x 12 SASE (2 units of postage) to the Fort Pierce ARC, P.O. Box 4, Fort Pierce, FL 34954.

Southeast Chapter QCWA Officers. From L to R: Herb Bernard, W4JXA; George Henning, WB4JFA; Elizabeth Clark, W4GGQ; Marion Rauch, WB4RFB and Art Rauch, W4VZ

DIGITAL DITHERINGS

Joe Burnham, WD4KAV

Ed. Note. ***This month, FLORIDA SKIP adds a new column and a new writer to its staff. I am happy to welcome Joe Burnham, WD4KAV to the fold. He will cover the digital modes of amateur radio and assures me that he will willingly address all the questions you may have for him.***

I have known Joe for several years and used to communicate with him frequently on packet. He has extensive experience with packet and writes a packet column in his club newsletter.

Joe experiments with many packet software programs and for many years has tried to convince me that there is an alternative to Joe Kasser's (G3ZCZ) Lan-Link. So far, he has been unsuccessful and his prospects don't look good for the near future either.

If you have any questions or topics that you would like Joe to discuss, drop me a line or call. Now Joe...it's all yours! //ger

Hello . . .

You see before you the first of what I hope will be many columns on the wonders of packet radio and digital communications in general.

I DON'T claim to "know all" (as a matter of fact, I know the LEAST about one of the hottest digital modes today...PACTOR. BUT...I'm willing to do what I can to inform and answer your questions (and learn from you too).

HINT: if you've got questions, comments. (but please, keep the negative comments to a minimum...who needs 'em?) PLEASE drop me a line via packet (WD4KAV @ N4XEO.#STU.FL.USA.NA) or write me at care of Florida Skip, and Gerry will see that I receive your words of wisdom.

Now that THAT is out of the way... let's get things started with a brief overview of packet radio. What can you DO with it? What does it take to get active on packet? Do you have to be a computer wizard to operate this mode - (no)??

I'll answer all these questions and more over the next several issues.

To begin at the beginning:

First off . . . what can you DO with packet radio?

You can:

Hold a QSO with another ham.

Send and receive NTS traffic....without you even being 'at the keys'.

Send messages to any ham that has packet capability...whether he's on the air "now" or not.

Receive ARRL bulletins almost as soon as they are issued.

Send and receive programs and text files.

Send and receive computer 'art'.

Have access to a huge DX NET...in operation just about 24 hours a day.

Talk around the state on VHF.

Talk anywhere in the world on HF

Have a 'roundtable' with several stations at once.

And...as they always seem to say...MORE!

Now that you're hopefully a little more interested in this mode, let's examine what you need to get active.

If you ALREADY have a MS-DOS computer (XT, AT, 386, 486), then you can get active on packet for about 50 dollars!

If you've got a VIC-20, Commodore 64/C-128 the cost ranges between 50 and 100 dollars. If you HAVE NO COMPUTER AT ALL...you can STILL get up on this digital mode for somewhere around 60 to 160 dollars (probably LESS). This is less than the cost of a new 2 meter rig.....

Now, let's look at these options one-at-a-time.

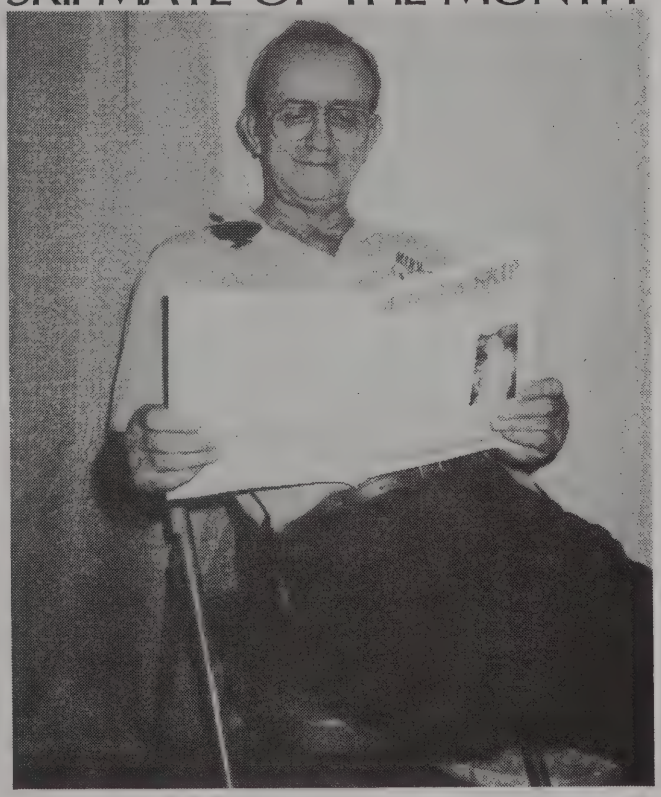
The cheapest way to investigate packet is via your existing MS-DOS compatible computer. This can be done with a special software program (BAYCOM) and unique 'modem' that plugs into one of your serial ports. If you don't have a serial port (sometimes called a SERIAL CARD) one will cost you between 7 and 15 dollars (mail order) or a little more retail.

BAYCOM turns your PC into a TNC. (A TNC is nothing more than a special dedicated computer...that behaves much like a modem. More on that later). BAYCOM and the associated 50 dollar modem, will let you talk to other hams on packet, exchange files with others, and more.

BAYCOM will permit you to take advantage of the world wide "E-Mail" network. Use it to send messages to anyone just about anywhere (assuming they're also packet...or even if they're NOT via the National Traffic System).

We'll check into the other options next issue...

SKIPMATE OF THE MONTH



Marvin Flynn, K4YWC of Melbourne relaxes with copy of FLORIDA SKIP at the Miami Hamboree

After last month's column on optimizing for Windows, I received feedback about some terms that I threw around rather loosely and this week I would like to discuss these terms in a little detail.

Specifically, there are two files that exist in the very first directory (usually called the root) of any disk that can boot a PC compatible computer. These are called the CONFIG.SYS and the AUTOEXEC.BAT files. Both of these files are text files that tell the computer what to do when it first comes up or BOOTS. The CONFIG.SYS file specifies system configuration and loads drivers that sit in computer memory and work automatically without any action from the operator. The AUTOEXEC.BAT file executes a series of DOS commands and any other DOS loadable program that the user wants to start when the computer boots. The commands that are in these files are described in detail (in computerese of course) in the MS DOS manuals and if you have DOS 5.0 or later, in the on-line help files. But I will go into a few of these commands that are frequently used and discuss what they do and why you need them.

Device Loadable Drivers.

Device Loadable Drivers are usually one of two types. The first type of driver has an extension of SYS (like ANSI.SYS) and usually adds a feature to your operating system when they are loaded. The command to load this driver is placed in the CONFIG.SYS in the following format:

DEVICE = ANSI.SYS

There are several loadable drivers that come with DOS and many more that come with programs and add-on drives. A CD ROM Drive needs a device driver loaded in the CONFIG.SYS so that DOS will recognize this new kind of drive much the same as it recognizes any other drive. Device drivers occupy some of your memory and cannot be removed once they are installed. In older versions of DOS this became a problem because if you had a lot of devices, then there may not have been enough memory to run any thing else. Newer versions of DOS allow these drivers to reside in upper memory on 386 computers freeing lower memory for running programs. DOS 6.0 and higher even allows a menu of device drivers so that you can load several different combinations of drivers depending on what you want to do. This is a nice feature if you have programs that require a special memory manager. In the menu you select between this custom memory manager and EMM386 that is the memory manager provided by DOS for operating Windows.

Handles

Handles are temporary operating system links that your programs use to store things. There are three kinds of handles: FILES, BUFFERS and STACKS. FILES provide temporary storage on your disk. BUFFERS provide temporary storage in you computer memory for file transfer and STACKS are also in memory but are usually used by hardware interrupts or devices like your mouse that interrupts your computer whenever it is moved. A typical command list for handles goes in the CONFIG.SYS file and is as follows:

BUFFERS = 40
FILES = 40
STACKS = 9,256

PATH

The PATH command resides in your AUTOEXEC.BAT file and tells the computer where to look for an executable file when you type it on the keyboard. The PATH contains directories separated by semicolons. The computer's command execution unit (COMMAND.C OM) searches the directories in the order that is specified in the PATH. Sometimes when you call a program it may call additional programs. In order for the command interpreter to find these additional programs, the directory where they live must be in the PATH. An example of a PATH command is as follows:

PATH = C:\;C:\DOS;C:\WINDOWS

In this example, the command interpreter will search the current directory, then the root directory of the hard disk, then the DOS directory and finally the WINDOWS directory

PROMPT

The PROMPT command resides in the AUTOEXEC.BAT file and controls what the command interpreter shows on the screen when the keyboard prompt is displayed. The most common PROMPT command displays the current directory that you are in but fancier PROMPT commands can display the time or date in the upper right corner or the version number of your operating system. The command to display the current directory in brackets followed by a Greater-Than sign is as follows:

PROMPT [$P] $G

SET

The SET command is found in the AUTOEXEC.BAT file and can assign a name to a system parameter. The name may be common to the software package you buy but the system parameter may be different for every system. For example, many programs require a temporary place to put files on the hard disk drive. They will put them in TEMP. In the AUTOEXEC.BAT file, a SET TEMP=C:\TEMP will assign TEMP the directory TEMP but in a different system that uses a RAM Drive for speed this command might read: SET TEMP=D:\ that is the path of the RAM drive. In this way the program will find the appropriate directory if it is looking for TEMP.

SHELL

The SHELL command is related to the SET command and resides in the CONFIG.SYS file. The SHELL command specifies which command interpreter will be used by the operating system but more important allows the changing of the size of the environment space. Each time a SET command is used, some of the environment is used up. If you run out of environment space, then use the shell command to extend the size. A typical SHELL command is follows:

SHELL = C:\DOS\COMMAND.COM C:\DOS\ /e:512 /p

This SHELL command increases the environment to 512 bytes but uses some of your RAM.

These are the basic commands that are found in the Boot Files under MS DOS. Even more sophisticated batch files can be constructed for creating menus and performing automated tasks. I will cover them in a future article.

Steve

Noxious and Offensive

One Year Later

On January 15, 1993, Judge Charles E. Smith of the 19th Judicial Circuit Court, State of Florida ruled the Amateur Radio transmissions of David, WA4NST and Sherri, N4XLF to be, "Noxious and Offensive" and ordered the Browers to cease all amateur radio transmissions from their home.

As of January 15, 1994, the Browers' appeal of this bizarre legal decision is still pending and the station at their residence remains QRT. However they have been busy.

The scenario began in October 1990 when the Browers erected a 68 foot tower, with approximately 20 feet of mast and antennas atop the tower in their back yard. The neighbors, who felt the tower was "Ugly", initiated a lawsuit in December 1990 which led to Judge Smith's decision in 1993. In 1991, the Building Code Enforcement Department of Indian River County found the Browers in violation of a regulation which prohibited "towers in excess of 70 feet" anywhere in the county. The Browers sued Code Enforcement and in April 1993 the court ruled that the regulations limiting "towers" to 70 feet were invalid, void and unenforceable, citing PRB-1 and Florida Statute 125.0185, and admonished the county for their failure to even define "tower."

Because of Brower vs. Code Enforcement of Indian River County the amateurs in Indian River County Florida now have a "reasonably accommodating" set of regulations which balances amateur radio communications needs and the interests of public safety. Since April 1993, the Browers have met with various officials in the county, attended numerous meetings about the required revisions to the county regulations, written numerous articles for the local radio club newsletter and successfully rallied other local hams to fight for a "reasonably accommodating" rewrite of the regulations. Now in Indian River County an amateur radio tower may be at a height up to 70 feet by obtaining a building permit and submitting a copy of the manufacturers specifications. For heights 70 to 140 feet and administrative approval (and fee) is required. The "red tape" is at a minimum for licensed radio amateurs but unfortunately the definition of tower height includes the antennas in the measurement.

Besides their work on the tower regulation issue, David and Sherri have joined with other radio amateurs in providing communications for several walkathons, were both instructors for a class for new amateurs, were guests on a local radio talk show to discuss Amateur Radio and David is active as a volunteer examiner.

The costly appeal process (of Brower vs. Hubbard et al.), which when successfully resolved will allow the Browers to again transmit from their home and keep their tower, still drags on. At issue is a precedent that could cost many US amateurs their ability to have an "Amateur Radio Antenna and Antenna Support Structure" at their residence. A legal defense fund has been established to assist them.

Contributions may be sent to:
Brower Legal Defense Trust
c/o James Laseter, N4ZYX
2716 Robin St.
Ft. Pierce, FL 34982

Respect Thy Spectrum

-by Mark Lavallee, AC4UV
Advantage Communication, Hollywood, FL

Do you take your Amateur Radio Spectrum for granted? Did you know that in the Land Mobil Radio Business the privilege to use a ten channel allotment of RF is often sold for over 100,000 dollars. A license for a single channel on a cellular system costs about 10,000 dollars. Our police and fire agencies use radio to save lives daily. The aviation service uses radio to safely handle thousands of in flight traffic and airport operations daily. The Marine Industry uses radio in much the same way, safely routing waterway traffic, avoiding unsafe weather situations, and distress calling, just to name a few.

How do hams fit in to this spectrum usage? Traditionally hams have used their radio spectrum in positive ways. We have pioneered many aspects of modern radio. Contributed to the supply of trained radio operators in World War II and other military operations. We have always aided in relief of disasters by offering our radio talents and equipment voluntarily.

It is important that all amateurs understand the value of radio spectrum. Other services pay handsomely for their right to use RF spectrum. We have seemingly endless amounts of it, but I often find fellow hams treating it as a place to air out their dirty laundry, act out aggression towards another spectrum user, or pacify their daily boredom by staying in endless QSO with other board users.

The RF world is so full of potential for doing good, especially in the Amateur region. It is historically our obligation to keep up such a fine tradition. We respect spectrum by using it constructively. Using our communication channels to promote our fun hobby is a good example of constructive use. Public service, emergency radio communications, training for both new and old amateurs are all important uses of our spectrum. Making new friends, keeping up with old ones, experimenting, and gaining technical knowledge are all part of what can be done with our spectrum.

With the right to use RF spectrum, we are responsible for keeping it the valuable resource it is. Just look at how other services rely on the useful nature of radio and their efficient use of it. This concept of the important nature of our spectrum is as old as radio itself. (one hundred years) We must keep our standards high in order to keep the value in our hobby.

QSL bureau statistics

In 1993 ARRL members sent about 7.25 tons of QSL cards to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau, and the Bureau shipped them out. This was 2,182,000 cards for DX destinations.

The US Incoming QSL Bureau's volunteers sorted just over two million cards in 1993, as well.

Information on the operation of the QSL Bureaus is on pages 98 and 99 of QST for January 1994.

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VIEW FROM THE PANHANDLE

"Matt" Matthew, KC4RKJ

On the front page of the February 1st issue of W5YI Reports, there is an article titled, "ARRL Pushes for Lifetime Operator". With this endorsement, the ARRL brings forward an idea that could save both the FCC and the individual operator time and money. In my opinion, it makes sense to issue a license for a lifetime. With this change, the only time that it would be necessary for an Amateur to have records or license altered, would be for upgrades in license class, change of address information, or, in the case of ladies, possible name changes.

All kinds of "if"s, "and"s, and "but"s are included in the fine print; but it seems to be an idea with some merit.

For those of you who are going to upgrade, change address, etc., a new simplified FCC Form 610 has been adopted. It went into effect on March 1st. THE OLD FORM 610 WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IF RECEIVED BY FCC OR ARRL AFTER MARCH 1ST.

In general, the new Form 610 should be easier to fill in. It is also important for those in the process of upgrading their license class to know that partial fulfillment of requirements will NOT be placed on the new Form 610. According to the ARRL headquarters in Newington, CT, only when all requirements are met will the new Form 610 be submitted. Only the Certificate of Successful Completion will be filed with the VEC. **BE SURE TO HOLD ONTO YOUR CSCE!**

For example, if a license candidate passes the written portion of the license class requirement but not the code, that candidate will be issued a CSCE as is currently the case. A Form 610 will not be filed, however. Again, it is vitally important that the CSCE be kept in a safe place. This CSCE, as is currently the case, is presented to the next VE team when the next element of the license class requirement is applied for. When all elements are successfully passed, the candidate should have a CSCE showing the license class earned. It is at this point that the new 610 will be forwarded and the new license issued by the FCC. There is no word about any change in time lapse between the forwarding of the new 610 and the issuance of the license itself. It is my opinion, however, that with the lessening of the paper flow and paperwork, that the time span should be shortened.

Personally, I think this new Form 610 is a good move forward. The FCC needs only the basic information. Why not get rid of all the interim and unnecessary information and all the resultant extra paper?

Congratulations are in order for Frank Butler/W4RH who was elected to another term as ARRL Southeastern Region Representative. Frank is well known and is very conscientious about his duties. What I like about Frank is that he makes himself available to those operators in his area who need information and assistance. We wish him well and I am sure that he will continue to work for improvements in Amateur Radio.

Another piece of good news is the fact that the new 9600 baud backbone is up and running between Fort Walton Beach and Crestview, site of the major BBS's in the area. Credit should be given to those who worked long and hard to get it into operation:

Jerry Wood/N4ZYB "Hud" Huddleston/KF4BU Jim Jajuga/KD4NHQ Steve Strom/N4GXX Hank Kahrs/K2UVG Steve McCarter/KB4OID

The Playground Amateur Radio Club is to be commended for funding this great imporvement in services. Anyone who has worked the 145.010 VHF packet frequency with W4ZBB BBS (Fort Walton Beach) or the N4GXX BBS (Crestview), or either of the nodes in those locations, knows the jam-up that used to occur on that frequency. The jam-ups appear to be gone, with most of the data being passed between the two BBS's traveling on the backbone. Those of us who operate packet in the area have already noticed a great improvement in speed of access and, of course, speed of sending and receiving packet materials.

The antenna for the W4ZBB BBS has also been moved and the improvement in access is very much noted. I am sure adjustments will be forthcoming, but the results, so far, are very good.

Have you checked your Amateur license expiration date lately? Have you forwarded any changes in address? In some of the growth areas, numerous zip code changes have been made. You are supposed to keep the FCC up-to-date. I read an article in "The Printed Circuit" which is the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society's newsletter awhile ago indicating that many, many Hams are impossible to contact because of incorrect addresses. Maybe, at a club meeting, the leadership of the club should bring this to the attention of the members and provide the new 610's to those members who need them.

An interesting event that you should try to attend is the Gainesville on April 9th and 10th. Some of you will know it as "The Poor Man's Hamfest".

This event has an interesting background. About seven years ago, Bob Hawkins/W4UZB organized a HamFest event which was held at the American Legion Hall in Newberry, Florida. Bob ramrodded it for 2 years and each year it prospered and grew. WHen Bob passed away, his wife asked the Gainesville Amateur Radio Society if they would like to keep it going. She felt that Bob would have wanted it to continue. The leadership decided to take over and the next year the Poor Man's HamFest was held at the Dixieland Music Park in Waldo, Florida. The event continued to grow and grow until it moved to its present site at the Alachua County Fairgrounds.

One of the unique things about this event is that not enough tables and chairs were available. Bill/K4RDP found 150 chairs at a special sale. This resolved most of that problem. Bill then got involved in the purchase of about 100 hollow core doors at an auction which he stores at this home. Two hundred saw horses were made up and the table problem was solved.

Entrance tickets were kept low in price and the cost of tables was kept way down.

The local Boy Scouts provide the food and it is a must that it be of good quality and at a reasonable price. Mom, Dad, and the kids are all involved in

continued on page 22

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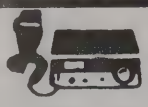

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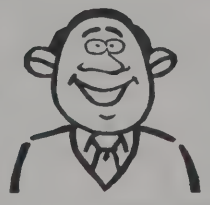

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Amateur Radio Mail Order Catalog & Resource Directory

David Thompson, K4JRB, owner of Resource Solutions, announced the publication of the 1994 edition of the *Amateur Radio Mail Order Catalog and Resource Directory*. According to Mr. Thompson, "The January 1994 issue marks the fourth edition of the catalog and it's bigger and better than ever, with 250+ pages, nearly 200 categories, and more that 1,600 entries of mail-order products and services for hams."

The catalog is categorized and alphabetized into easy-to-find heading from "Alternative Energy" to "Weather Instruments." Listing include the name, address, phone and fax number of the vendor, plus a description of products or services. And again this year, the catalog is proud to include *A library of Tips* from Bill Welsh, W6DDB, columnist and author, who has for many years provided the radio newcomer with easy explanations of the jargon and theories in our hobby.

The Resource Directory portion contains a Directory of 100+ Free Catalogs, A Directory of Catalogs for a Fee, A Directory of Radio Clubs, A Directory of VEC's, A Directory of Amateur Radio Bulletin Services, A directory of Foreign Radio Magazines, A Directory of BBS's, a glossary and more.

The publication was recently purchased from John Hart of Hart Publishing. The 1993 edition was a complete sell out due to the yeoman efforts of Mr. Hart. Mr Thompson pledges to maintain the same high quality in future editions. The new 1994 edition is scheduled to be available about February 1st.

"It's a great value and a must-have book for both the newcomer or the veteran operator," Mr. Thompson said. To maintain accurate listings, the catalog is updated on an on-going basis all year long. Starting in July 1994, the mid-year update will be a computer (DOS) version that will allow quick look up by either company name or category. The single issue price for the 1994 *Amateur Radio Mail Order Catalog and Resource Directory* is $16.00 plus $3.00 postage via priority mail, or it's available at radio dealers everywhere.

For more information, write or call: Resource Solutions, 6050 Peachtree Parkway, Suite 340-228, Norcross, GA 30092 - (404) 448-9836.

Condominium Association Lawsuit

Clearwater, Florida--After trying for almost three years to install and maintain an Amateur Radio antenna, Don Stoner, W6TNS, has initiated a lawsuit that could have significant impact on hams in other areas of the country.

Many condominiums and community associations have restrictions on antennas, called restrictive covenants. Usually they specify that no antennas be erected, which covers ham radio as well as satellite dishes.

The suit, which contains 11 counts, 142 paragraphs and weighs almost four pounds, was initiated on January 30, 1993, against the defendant, 440 West, Inc. Stoner maintains in the lawsuit that the Association has installed community television antennas, and a radio system for condominium security, in direct violation of their own rules.

Stoner maintains the action of 440 West, Inc., has violated his civil rights and freedom of speech. W6TNS alleges that as a result of the actions of the Association, he is no longer able to talk with his friends, made as a ham radio operator in the past 40 years. He further alleges the restriction the Association relies on, for its right to ban ham radio, specifically applies to television antenna and nothing else. Stoner was forced to take down a longwire antenna even though there was no restriction against a receiving antenna in the Association documents.

In an unusual approach to resolving Association concerns about multiple antennas, Stoner offered to install a community ham radio antenna, incorporating the AEA, Inc., "Hamlink," stating that any licensed resident could use the system without adding any wiring or other antenna. The Association refused this reasonable offer and the lawsuit was initiated.

If W6TNS wins this lawsuit, it could impact the situation of other hams throughout the country. Many condominium associations, planned communities and mobile home parks have restrictive covenants and/or deed restrictions which attempt to restrict the activities of Amateur Radio operators in every state of the nation.

Antenna Legislation

To provide a more complete solution to the restrictive covenant problem, Stoner also is working with Florida legislators to introduce ham radio provisions, that would benefit all Amateurs, into the State law. Don Stoner, W6TNS, who is the President of The National Amateur Radio Association, believes that restrictive covenants work against the safety of the entire community and should be revised. Recently, Florida residents had a painful, first-hand example, when hurricane Andrew devistated the southern end of the state.

The legislation proposed by Stoner requires that each condominium, planned community, and mobile home park be required have an emergency preparedness plan, which includes ham radio. If an Amateur lives in one of these communities, he or she would be allowed by law to install an antenna system suitable for providing safety communications to the community.

-ARRL, Internet

Film gets honors

Ham Radio Horizons, a film introducing non-hams to Amateur Radio, was a finalist in the New York Festivals International Non-Broadcast Media competition for 1993.

The 49-minute film is part of the CQ Communications video library, which also includes films on satellite operation, DXing, contests, and packet radio.

Executive producer of the film was ARRL Northern New Jersey Section Manager Rich Moseson, NW2L.

The awards were presented January 14 in New York City.

ARRL, Internet

ARMY MARS REPORT

Lorraine S. Matthew (AAA9PR), PIO MARS WW

Regular readers of this column have read about Florida Army MARS' emphasis on creating interlocking 2-meter simplex clusters throughout the state. Nowhere was the wisdom of this goal more justified than in California on the morning of January 17, 1994. The leaders of Florida Army MARS are to be commended for their farsightedness.

January 17, 1994 - Florida Panhandle awoke to partly cloudy skies with a promise of sunshine to come later in the day. Northridge, California was very rudely awakened to a 6.6 Richter Scale earthquake at about 4:30 AM Pacific time. This contrast in mornings is typical for the United States, a large country, stretching as it does from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific Ocean.

Northridge is located only 20 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. All of America witnessed the devastation in the Los Angeles Basin via CNN or KTLA on satellite. All of America was impressed by the immediate response of skilled emergency workers in the area and who came in from outside the area as well.

Army MARS was very active and instrumental in relaying key information that made it possible for the right skills to be available at the right time. Lessons learned from Florida's Hurricane Andrew identified the need for the Director of Military Support (DOMS) to have direct means of gathering logistical information in order to plan the military support for any disaster. Army MARS provided the means and DOMS provided the badly needed support. This MARS/DOMS alliance proved itself for the first time in the Klamath Falls Earthquake late in 1993. Army MARS was able to provide exactly the information that DOMS in the Pentagon needed from Oregon. Army MARS had proved its potential.

The California-DOMS link was very different from any provided anywhere previously. To quote Robert Cowan/AAV9IQ, an Army MARS operator, who was very important to the success of the California operation, "For the first time, ham radio was integrated with the information superhighway and military communications to serve the citizens."

Army MARS went multi-mode and multi-media for the first time in its history with stunning results. Emergency nets were called within minutes of the quake on both HF and 2-meter frequencies. Many of those California members who had to evacuate their homes went on the 2-meter nets and relayed vital information out of the stricken area. This information could not have been secured without the use of 2-meter VHF transmissions. Packet was run on both HF and VHF. All of these operations, of course, used traditional radio techniques.

For the first time, E-Mail was used in addition to the radio transmissions. This enabled Army MARS and DOMS to have almost instantaneous communication and exchange of information. FAX and telephone were also used to augment the flow of information.

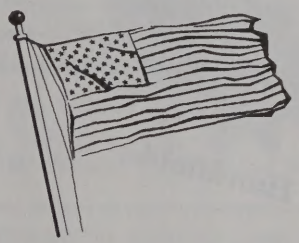
This reporter has E-Mail and the flow of information into my office has been outstanding. The feature that I like most is its compatibility with packet (and the other digital modes as well). If I get a MARS message on E-Mail, I can copy it onto a computer disk, walk into my packet station and put the disk into the computer there, and send the message via packet with absolutely no alterations needed. It's a great feature that is available to users of the Army MARS services. The recipient also instantly has a hard copy of the data that he needs. In an emergency situation, this copy availability can be crucial.

Chief Sutton reported, "Within minutes after the earthquake struck, a Southern California Emergency net was established. Army MARS stations in five states checked into the Southern California HF MARS Emergency Nets: CA, OR, WA, NV, and AZ."

Support was given by the establishment of emergency nets by Western Area and the United States Army Information Systems Command (USAISC) station in Arizona. Support was provided in the following areas - response to DOMS inquiries(as described above), priority Red Cross traffic, California traffic authorities, status updates to USAISC and other agencies needing such information, and many other options as needed.

Army MARS was needed. Army MARS activated. Army MARS provided all requested support. Its members were there from the beginning and are to be commended for a professional job well done.

Army MARS remains ... Proud ... Professional ... Ready.



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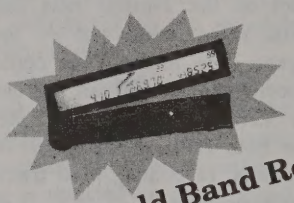

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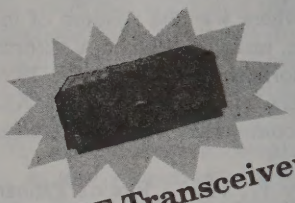

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- Editor

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SFFMA - continued from front

Ham radio joins crime fight with mobile transmission to 911

By ANA ACLE CHASKO
Herald Staff Writer

A program that lets licensed amateur radio operators transmit to 911 could help reduce crime and have a significant impact on emergency responses in the county, police and radio enthusiasts say.

The program, called Citizens' Ham Mobile Patrol (CHAMP), could cut down on the time it takes to get in touch with police because the radio operators, also known as hams, can relay messages from their cars quicker than it would take someone to find a pay phone. There are 5.000 hams in Dade alone.

"Licensed amateur radio operators normally driving in vehicles who see crime can call the police on their amateur radio, which has the capability of making a phone call," said Metro police officer Frank Rivera, of Northeast Dade's Intracoastal station. Rivera also is a ham.

"It's going to help abandoned people on the highway who fear for their safety, and it's a free call for the amateur and the amateur's job anyway is for emergency radio assistance," he added.

The program is only two weeks old, said Samuel Harte, the president of the South Florida FM Association, who added that ham operators already have called in numerous assaults, accidents and potentially threatening situations, such as an abandoned car in a poorly lit, deserted street.

Licensed amateur radio operators have gained respect, along with a high profile, most recently during natural disasters, such as the Los Angeles earthquake and Hurricane Andrew. Hams have been used to transmit messages dealing with emergency medical care in Bosnia, where Muslims have been cut off from the world by Serb guns.

CHAMP is a joint effort among Metro Police, Citizens' Crime Watch of Dade and the South Florida FM Association. Ham radio operators who want to get involved in the program attend a two-hour training session and receive a sticker they can place on their cars to warn thugs that they are being watched. CHAMP hams are given an access code they can use to automatically dial in to 911.

Harte said any licensed ham radio operator can participate in CHAMP, whether a member of a radio club or not. He adds that the training includes how to report a crime or emergency to 911 and a tour of the emergency communications center.

-Miami Herald, January 27, 1994

Ed. Note. ***Although putting a sticker on the car to "warn thugs that they are being watched" can have some positive effects, I am one of those who has reservations about advertising the fact that my car may have fenceable electronic equipment on board. I would rather not have a ham license tag and I get nervous about my dual-band antenna that looks remarkably like a cellular antenna. //ger***

View - continued from page 15

preparing and serving the food. They are proud of their work.

Last year was the first time that the hamfest was held at the new location and it was a success. It was a one-day affair. This year it is going to be a 2-day event and all kinds of prizes will be presented and vendors are eager to attend. It still maintains the old tailgate atmosphere and it is a real bargain.

When talking to a club representative, the event will be held annually on the first or second weekend in April. It will be scheduled each year so as not to end up on Easter weekend.

As for details, the hamfest will be held at the Alachua County Fairgrounds. The fairgrounds are located at the intersection of SR 24 and SR 222 at the airport. A talk-in will be on 146.820. For further information, contact Bill/K4RDP at (904) 454-3105.

I think you will have a great time.

73's,

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR

AMATEUR LICENSE LATELY?

SE Ohio QCWA Annual Banquet

The Southeast Ohio Chapter of the Quarter Century Wireless Association will hold its 1994 Annual Banquet Friday, April 22, the first evening of the Dayton Hamvention at Alex's Continental Restaurant. C.O.D. bar at 7:00, banquet at 7:30. Reservations required. QCWA membership is not a requirement for attendance. For tickets ($15.00 each) make check payable to Robert L. Dingle, Treas. Chapter 9 and mail to 1117 Big Hill Rd., Kettering, OH 45429-1201.

FCC NOTICE FORM 610 REVISED.

FCC Form 610, application for Amateur Operator/primary Station License, has been revised. The new version dated November 1993, may be ordered from the FCC Forms Distribution Center at (202) 632-3676 after February 14. The new form reflects recent changes in the Amateur Rules.

Effective March 1, 1994, only the November 1993 edition of FCC Form 610 may be used to obtain an Amateur license. Earlier editions of the form received after March 1, 1994 will delay issuance of the license as the application will be returned without action and the applicant will be required to refile on a current form.

For further information contact the Consumer Assistance Branch, Private Radio Bureau, Gettysburg, PA 17325. Telephone number 717-337-1212.

Note: The new 610 form nay be obtained by sending a SASE to Florida Skip Specialties, c/o Andy Clark, P.O. Box 501, Miami Springs, FL 33266.